

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
105-4

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
33

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **155 Brook Street**

Historic Name **Hobart House**

Use: Present residence

Original residence

Date **before 1830; c. 1820s**

Source **maps & History of the Town**

Style/Form **Federal/gambrel block**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **clapboard & shingle**

Roof **red asphalt**

Outbuildings **garage**

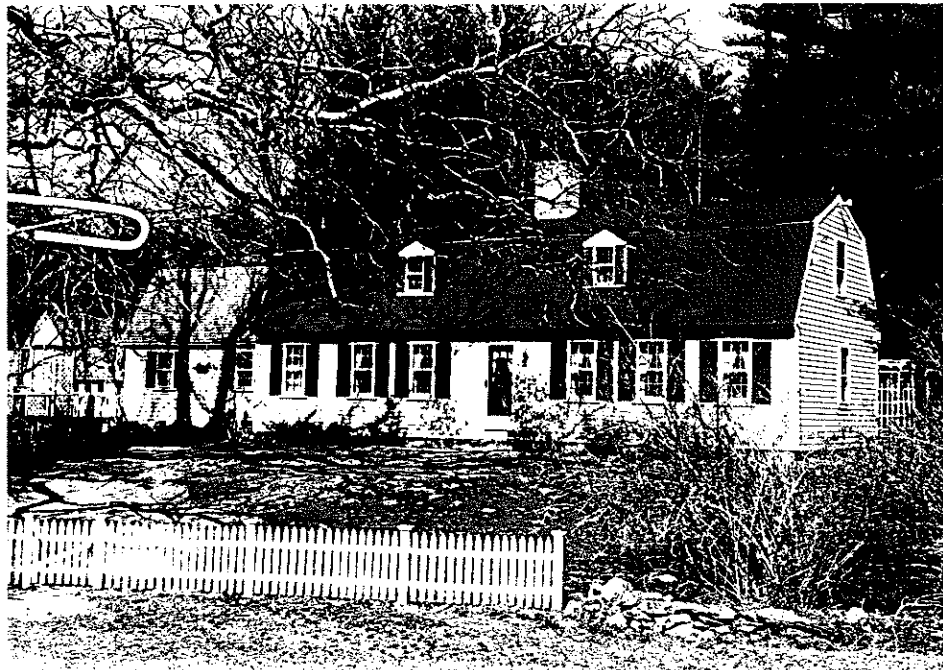
Major Alterations **none**

Condition **excellent**

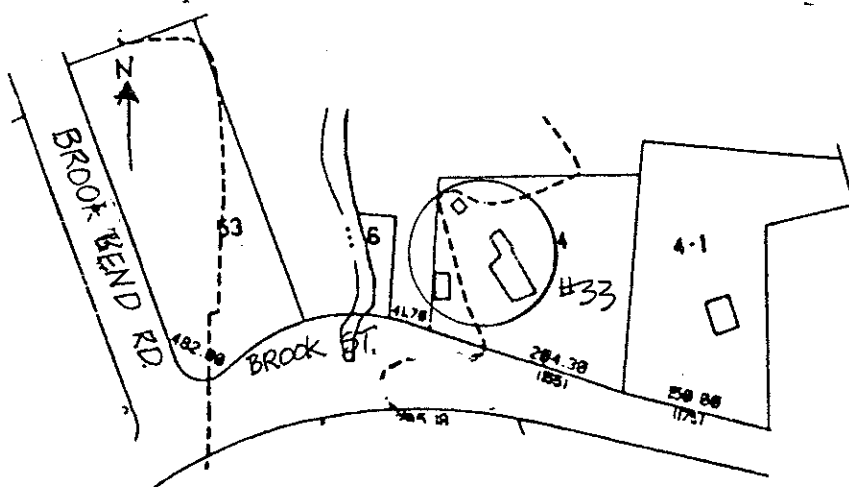
Moved **no**

Acreage **37,339 sq. ft.**

Setting **rural & suburban residential**



Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hobart House at 155 Brook Street is a well-preserved, unusually wide, one-and-one-half story, gambrel-roofed center chimney house in the Federal style. This house may have in its original configuration been a hall-and-parlor house that was expanded to produce its present form. Further research is necessary to determine this. The seven-bay wide by single-pile block is extremely compact in massing augmented only by a small, one-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed service wing on the left-side elevation and two modest gabled dormers that provide some light to the attic story. The facade's fenestration suggests an interior arrangement of two rooms on either side of the centered entry with the rooms closest to the entry larger than the pair of seemingly unheated rooms at each gable end. Characteristic of Federal-styled buildings, decorative detailing is minimal, and in this example lacks the common accent around the entry. The house retains much of the feel of its early rural setting in spite of encroaching modern residential development.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Until well into the twentieth century Brook Street and much of the northeast section of Hanson remained largely rural with houses scattered along the primary arteries. The Hobart House, which dates to before 1830, was one of several houses located near the Indian Head Brook by that time. A nail works, later a tack factory, was located on the brook that runs below the house until sometime after the middle of the nineteenth century. One secondary source indicates Elihue Hobart, identified as the owner in 1830 on the historic map, erected the tack factory in the late 1820s and that the house was constructed in the same period to provide room and board for men employed in the factory. Further research is necessary to confirm this and whether Hobart was the house's first owner. Historic maps identify B.H. Stevens as the owner by 1856, which perhaps should be H.B. as that is the identified owner by 1879. Joseph White indicates that Horace Stevens, who occupied the house for thirty-eight years, acquired the house from Fred Stevens in 1854, further suggesting the initials have been inverted on the 1856 map. By 1903 the identified owner is J.S. Borges and nearly thirty years later the house belonged to Merton E. Morse.

REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
White, Houses of Hanson
History of the Town of Hanson, typescript, c. 1960

✓ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

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Community
Hanson

Property Address
155 Brook Street

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.
☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.
☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.